

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1 through 21 (cancelled)

22. (new) In a food item of the type in which a muscle tissue elongate contains an edible filling disposed along the longitudinal axis thereof characterized in that said edible filling is comprised of an animal tissue elongate having a significant proportion of protein;

whereby a coaxially combined food item is produced which when sliced transversely will reveal a substantially concentric arrangement comprising an outer ring, a center, and a boundary thereinbetween, in which said boundary may or may not be highly visible depending on the visual similarity of the make up of the constituent elongates.

23. (new) The food item of claim 22 in which said food item is sliced into steaks.

24. (new) The food item of claim 22 which further includes a means for highlighting said boundary.

25. (new) The food item of claim 24 in which said food item is sliced into steaks.

26. (new) The food item of claim 22 wherein said muscle tissue elongate is comprised of a top loin.

27. (new) The food item of claim 26 wherein said edible filling is comprised of a tenderloin.
28. (new) The food item of claim 27 wherein said muscle tissue elongate is comprised of a length of longissimus dorsi.
29. (new) The food item of claim 28 wherein said edible filling is comprised of a length of psoas major.
30. (new) In a food item of the type in which a tubular perform comprised of a first animal tissue elongate contains an edible filling, characterized in that said edible filling is comprised of a second animal tissue elongate, said second animal tissue elongate having a weight of at least 20 percent that of said first animal tissue elongate.
31. (new) In a food item of the type in which a first animal tissue elongate encases along the longitudinal axis thereof, an edible filling in which a boundary is disposed thereinbetween, the improvement comprising a means for highlighting the visual appearance of said boundary when said food item is sliced transversely thereacross allowing for the visual inspection thereof thereby.